

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 03963 221704Z

64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CU-04 DRC-01 RSC-01 /022 W

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R 221606Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0432

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3963

FOR KUX FROM SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IN, US

SUBJECT: NATARAJ

1. WHEN I SAW TEJA ON OTHER BUSINESS TODAY (MARCH 21), I REVIEWED THE STATUS OF THE NATARAJ MATTER ALONG THE LINES IF STATE 52751. WHEN I NOTED AT THE END THAT THE SCENE FOR NATARAJ DISCUSSIONS SEEMED TO BE IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN NEW DELHI, TEJA COMMENTED THAT ANY FINAL AGREEMENT WILL HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN NEW DELHI AND THE TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAD NOMINATED A NEGOTIATING GROUP WHICH HAS BEEN WAITING TO MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTON SIMON FOUNDATION. THE GOI CONSIDERED THAT THE TALKS GOING ON IN WASHINGTON WERE EXPLORATORY. THEY WOULD BE USEFUL IN REACHING TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS, BUT THEY WERE PRIMARILY LAYING THE BASIS FOR TALKS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN NEW DELHI. THE GOI HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT NORTON SIMON WAS COMING TO INDIA BUT HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS RECENTLY.

2. I NOTED THAT WHEN CERTAIN PROBLEMS HAD COME UP ON THE NATARAJ QUESTION WE HAD CONCLUDED IT WAS BEST TO RESOLVE THESE IN THE US BEFORE CONSIDERING A SIMON VISIT. I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING AS TO WHETHER SUCH A VISIT WOULD IN FACT TAKE PLACE BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT TEJA EXPECTS IT.

3. COMMENT: THIS SOUNDS LIKE GOI BUREAUCRACY BUT I WOULDN'T BE TROUBLED BY IT. IF YOUR DISCUSSIONS HERE WORK OUT A GOOD

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AGREEMENT, THE GOI WILL PROBABLY RATIFY IT, PERHAPS WITH A VISIT

OR PERHAPS WITHOUT. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO PROCEED AND
MAKE JUDGEMENTS LATER ABOUT WHERE AND WHAT TO SIGN.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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